

cians in requisite number in the near future. The gap can be filled up by qualified homœopathic practitioners. This important aspect of the question should also receive due attention of the authorities.

—*Hindusthan Standard.*

### CLINICAL EXPERIENCES WITH NATRUM MURIATICUM

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Case histories found in our publications, together with my own experiences, have convinced me that no remedy deserves a thorough clinical study more than *Natrum mur.* In fact, even our best provings need supplementing by clinical observations, as it is these observations that enable us to eliminate the furtive element of arbitrariness from our prescribing. This applies to *Natrum mur.* in an especially high degree and is the reason for this study.

The consideration that not all people can assimilate all the sodium chloride contained in their food was my starting point. That part which is not assimilated is eliminated either by kidneys and other organs of excretion or it is retained and accumulated in the extracellular spaces and blood plasma. Whether eliminated or retained, in both cases the cells of the organs and tissues suffer from salt inanition. Where the elimination of salt is normal, the plasma and the extracellular spaces also suffer from deprivation of salt. Dehydration of the tissues and hypochloraemia result. When, on the other hand, the elimination is inadequate, overhydration and hyperchloraemia are the result. In the presence of too many chlorides, water is attracted and turgor of the tissues maintained or increased, in their absence water is lost with depletion, dehydration and emaciation following. Consequently we have two types of cases. One

type with insufficient salt in the cells as well as in the blood plasma and in the extracellular spaces this is the dry and emaciated type with good renal function. The other type has also too little salt in its cells but the renal function, as far as salt is concerned, is poor so that salt, and with it water, is retained in the blood and in the extracellular spaces. This type is heavy, fat, semi-dropsical, puffy and chubby.

In the first type the loss of water may affect the body all over uniformly. The skin then becomes dry, thin, withered, flabby, scaly, brittle, the subcutaneous fat disappears, the mucous membranes become dry, the blood pressure falls, nervous sensitiveness develops, etc.

In the second type the lagging excretion of salt is followed by overhydration which also may affect the body uniformly. This then gradually leads to salt and water retention obesity in which the skin is tense, flesh solid, face puffy and without wrinkles, abdomen distended, etc.

Either of these processes may also affect parts of the body only, while other parts remain normal. The two processes may also exist simultaneously in one and the same person, one of them attacking one part of the anatomy, the other another part, e.g. the neck may be scrawny and wrinkled while the legs may be heavy and oedematous. An endless number of variations of these two forms of pathology is found in our clinical cases. The distribution of salt and water is evidently not governed by the osmotic tension alone, but by many other factors.

Observation shows that individuals whose salt assimilation is below normal become salt provers. Salt is a chronic insidious toxin to them. The fact that surgeons once in a while succeed in saving a life by infusing physiologic salt solution does not refute this. Surgical measures of this kind restore the fluid balance in the body in a mechanical way but do not improve the chronically weakened salt metabolism. This latter can be accomplished only by the dynamic action of a homœopathic remedy. Only because

of the low toxicity of the sodium chloride are these surgical infusions possible, otherwise their harm would greatly exceed their immediate benefit.

It is known that large doses of crude salt are injurious, but it is less known that sea water in hypodermic injection gives therapeutic results if not sterilized. There is, however, no such wholesome effect if the sea water is boiled. We owe this discovery to Quinton, a French practitioner, but Hippocrates knew it also. This is parallel to the practice of Hahnemann, using only raw plant juices for his tinctures. Hahnemann found that decoctions of plants are inactive. Heat devitalizes them. Plant life vitalizes the chemicals contained in plants. Only through this vitalization of the chemicals is their assimilation in the animal body made possible. Chemicals straight out of the ground are not assimilated, are therefore toxic. According to Quinton sea salt is not a part of the inorganic crust of the earth but a product of plants. He calls sea water an organic *milieu* and salt a physiologic tonic when not boiled. It may therefore be that it is not so much salt that is responsible for the proving of salt, but the cooking and refining of salt because this destroys the property of its being assimilated.

Here, most probably, lies the reason why all over the western world potentized *Natrum mur.* is so often indicated in chronic cases. Anything else, of course, that weakens the metabolism in general, may diminish the assimilation of the drug and start its proving. Once started, the proving usually continues throughout life and passes on to the descendants. In a dozen families under my treatment every member of three generations is an involuntary salt prover and responds to its potencies or to some related remedy. Proving which extends over several generations of the same family must necessarily produce a greater variety of deeply seated chronic symptoms than the short voluntary provings made by Hahnemann and his followers. Long clinical observations show that especially the number of the mental symptoms developed in these long-range provings defies all imagi-

nation, while the functional physical symptoms progress in many cases into structural, degenerative, pathological changes. It must be plain to everybody that one hundred years of a proving will necessarily produce more symptoms than only one year. Only to some extent can those voluntary homœopathic provings which were made with high potencies compensate for the element of time. By clinical study of these long-range provings we can greatly enrich our knowledge of *Natrum mur.*

*Natrum mur.* has received a very thorough proving by Hahnemann and many of his early disciples. Its description, as bequeathed to us in Hahnemann's *Chronic Diseases*, in the *Encyclopedia* of T.F. Allen and Hering's *Guiding Symptoms*, are masterpieces of our literature. These three works should be read and re-read many times by every prescriber. For every day's perusal, however, the *Guiding Symptoms* are best because they are in a way more complete as they contain a number of clinical symptoms, such as are often found only in the involuntary provings and which are not mentioned in the other two works. Good prescribing is impossible without knowing every symptom of this remedy as given in the *Guiding Symptoms*. Everything there is concise, nothing superfluous; many symptoms are only faintly touched. If you study text books and pocket books alone and rely on the repertories, you will miss the remedy half of the time. In these short books too many important symptoms are deleted, which is natural since abbreviations cannot be made otherwise. Such books often leave the prescriber in darkness. To avoid faulty suggestions, the first study of this remedy should be made with the original provings. To pounce on repertories and abbreviated books right at the start, leads into a hit and miss art, from which it may be hard to extricate oneself later. In the long run the long study is the shortest. It eliminates uncertainty and makes prescribing a pleasure.

This is by far the richest remedy of the *Materia Medica*. It has so many mental symptoms that it is impossible to

prescribe on any of them *per se*. Here it does not suffice that the mental symptom characterizes the patient, the symptom itself must be further qualified. It is the way the symptom is grouped and related to other symptoms which makes its use possible and the prescribing safe. The term "imbalance" characterizes most of its symptoms. Imbalance is the red thread that runs through its symptomatology. There is excess and unstable equilibrium in every function. Everywhere there is oscillation or fluctuation between two opposite extremes, like a pendulum constantly swinging or swinging too far away from its central position. Other natrums, in fact most remedies, have excesses and imbalances, but none of them has this regularity of fluctuation and alternation of excessive manifestations that *Natrum mur.* has.

Here are some of these symptoms I see so often: the patient has two natures, one the reverse of the other. The fastest to alternate are his emotions. He may be very sad but you can make him laugh in a second. He may even have a causeless spell of laughter in the midst of the darkest depression, or may laugh involuntarily in the middle of a quarrel. When in company away from his home he is a charming fellow, but at home, with his wife and children, he is a perfect devil. One day he loves to go places, another day he enjoys to be alone at home not saying a word to anybody all day. The Austrian Empress Elizabeth loved gay amusements but people have found her sitting on a bench in the park weeping. When asked why she wept she answered that she hated to see herself getting old. *Natrum mur.* would have cured her. The patient is either sympathetic or cruel. He cries when his wife has a pain but would slap her for a mere trifle. He is very much afraid to die but a slight annoyance makes him want to die. A woman falls in love and is very affectionate, but if the man is more affectionate than she, her love turns into hatred. Hitler took a fancy to a member of his party or army general and, if they were often seen together, it

was soon rumored that this man's life was in danger. He needed a dose of *Natrum mur.* very high. The patient may be very generous but does not pay his bills. The government official who squanders the taxpayers' money with a fascinating smile needs this remedy. A lady loads her girl friend with kindness but very soon attacks her with kitchen knives. Tremendous ambition may alternate with a terrific inferiority complex, hurry and industry with indolence and procrastination. He wants to please but at other times offends people with his brusqueness.

Sometimes the mere idea of an emotion arouses the contrasting emotion. He cannot cry at a funeral, he even laughs when everybody else is sad, and his eyes are dry. On the other hand he may be sad and quarrelsome at a party when everybody else is cheerful and smiling. There may be exception to this kind of behavior. Sometimes the pendulum does not swing to the opposite side but swings still further in the same direction. At a party where everybody laughs, a boy wants to laugh most. At a funeral where everybody weeps, he wants to weep most; in a quarrel where one person shouts, he shouts more. If some one tells a joke, he adds to it and wants to tell a still bigger joke. Among humble people he wants to be humblest; if someone is kind, he is still kinder; if a girl loves him, he loves her more and could sacrifice himself for her. The books say that consolation aggravates and makes angry. It does sometimes, but just as often it is soothing and craved by the patient exactly as in *Pulsatilla*. Consolation makes him feel better is therefore not a symptom counter-indicating *Natrum mur.*

Some *Natrum mur.* cases, when starting a job, cannot stop until it is finished, e.g. if painting a house, they would not stop at nightfall but continue late into the night or paint all night. They are given to excesses in work and sport, drinking and eating, smoking and amusements. It is natural for normal people to desire things they like. But in the kleptomaniac this desire is exaggerated to such a degree that it wipes out all caution and self-control, it

therefore belongs to this remedy. In mythomania the patient's imagination is so lively that its subject becomes real to him. The desire for possession may grow further and lead to robbery, juvenile delinquency and the worst kinds of crimes. Yet this same individual that has a violent temper and dangerous instinct may at other times be mild mannered, sympathetic and even charming. A boy may be as good as gold when handled with love and kindness, but throws himself on the floor and kicks and screams when antagonized.

Fear and anxiety partake of the same excessiveness. A girl wakes up panicky and can't tell why. She is afraid of birds, worms, and other small animals. She can't relax, sucks her thumb or bites her nails. A grown up man is afraid of underground, cannot go into a mine, tunnel, cave, telephone booth or clothes closet. When left alone in a room, the door must be wide open. To shut it would simply terrify him. When swimming he would be afraid of diving, thinking that it would smother him. Others are afraid of wide open spaces but there is no fear if a fence or wall or a tree is somewhere near on which their eyes find a support. Mostly they are afraid of the dark, some of a dark room, others would not venture going on the street at night. One of my patients was deathly afraid to look up at the stars on a clear night. An old man could handle big troubles with ease, but little matters upset him beyond measure.

There is also excessiveness in anger and hatred, but only sometimes. Point blank statements that these patients are hateful, vindictive, dangerous, formidable, quarrelsome, are only half true. A number of them are the very opposite. They are amiable, considerate, kind, generous, great philanthropists, liberal, jovial, jesting, in short the nicest specimens of humanity. The time is past when I am afraid to give *Natrum mur.* to a sweet modest lady or to a decent mild-mannered man. Intellectual faculties may show similar abnormalities, that is they may be either over-developed or not developed enough. The memory may be so pheno-

menal that an individual remembers telephone numbers of all his friends for ten years back, or he may be a certain, idiot, mongoloid. Many inventive geniuses, creative artists such as painters, composers, poets, musicians are *Natrum mur.* cases. The atomic spy, Klaus Fuchs, is likely to be one of them. His face with its puffy form, as we saw it in pictures in magazine, confirms this diagnosis. A poetess and musician, suffering from gout, found that she could not write poetry as she could previously after her gout had improved under a dose of *Natrum mur.* cm. Van Gogh could have been cured with *Natrum mur.* His painting talents may have been a *Natrum mur.* symptom. Besides he was a refined sympathetic soul, but with his friend Gauguin he quarreled so violently that he threw dishes at him. Moments of sublime artistic inspiration alternated with spells of darkest depression so that one day he cut off one of his ears. His sadness later reached such a proportion that he committed suicide. Richard Wagner was luckier, he found a good homœopath who cured him. Voltaire would have had a greater opinion of his immortality if he had had a dose of *Natrum mur.* He said that he would have gladly given his immortality for a good digestion. Cezanne would work hard for a period of time, then suddenly, for no apparent reason, he would throw away his brush and be unable to make a stroke for weeks. Examples of this kind could be multiplied if we had more time. In short, it may be said that increased creativeness, artistic and other, and increased intellectuality coexist with decreased rationality or other short-comings in the mental development.

Alteration and excess in one direction or another are found also in physical symptoms. Ignorance of this fact has caused many failures in prescribing. Everywhere in the physical sphere there is excess of function or lack of it, one form or its opposite, one disturbed condition or its opposite. They are alternating with each other or replacing each other. Oversensitiveness or loss of sensation, drowsiness or sleeplessness, restlessness or aversion to motion,



thirst or thirstlessness, craving or aversion for one and the same food article, growing too fast or too slowly, body temperature too high or too low, chilliness or intolerance for heat, well one day, sick the next, are symptoms belonging to this remedy and encountered in one and the same individual at different times in alternation or singly.

Twenty years ago I took *Natrum Mur.* for a cold infection and immediately started to prove the drug. Of the symptoms that I developed the one which particularly impressed itself on my memory was the effect of cold baths. The cold bath felt like balmy oil on my skin. The colder it was, the more soothing it felt. This experience, together with Kent's assertion that *Natrum mur.* is warm blooded, have been false guides in my prescribing for many years. Further experience gradually taught me that, at the level of vitality we find in our *Natrum mur.* cases at present, very few enjoy cold bathing. The majority bathe lukewarm and some bathe hot and would be shocked by a cold bath. This remedy, I have gradually become convinced, is not contra-indicated if the patient bathes hot. In a *Natrum mur.* family of three generations the oldest generation usually likes cool bathing, the middle likes it lukewarm and the youngest likes it mostly hot. The oldest has the best vitality, its symptoms are sthenic, it likes cold temperatures; the second has less vitality, prefers therefore somewhat warmer temperatures; the third suffers from asthenia and is sensitive to cold. The partial discrepancy between this observation and the voluntary homœopathic provings is easily explained by the fact that the voluntary provers had good vitality and reacted with sthenic symptoms just as the older generations in family. I also feel obliged to emphasize that *Natrum mur.* is not warm blooded though he may dislike hot air, hot baths, hot sun. His vitality is always diminished. This makes him often chilly, yet his aversion to heat is only an effect of the sensitiveness of his vascular system to temperature changes, and while he is sensitive to heat, he is just as

sensitive to cold. He feels better in winter only if he is warmly dressed or heavily covered in bed.

Nor is it true that emaciation proceeds from above downward. This symptom, as well as every other general symptom, proceeds either from above downward or from below upward. This applies to emaciation, obesity, dehydration, overhydration, perspiration, dryness, atrophy, itching, venectasiae, paraesthesiae, pains, etc.

The particulars of this remedy are of great prescriptive importance as they are, though local, so often an expression of the functional deviations affecting the whole system. They oscillate and become excessive just as the general symptoms; here are some examples: hair is dry or greasy, thin or thick, growing fast or slowly and falling out; eyes are dry or watery, sunken or protruding, hot or cold; ear canals puffy and narrow or atrophic and wide; ear lobes large and turgescient or thin and waxy; face too red or too pale; cheeks puffy or sunken; tip of nose red and bloated or shiny and atrophic; lips swollen or dehydrated; mouth cold or hot; tongue large and indented or small and smooth; saliva excessive or deficient; pharynx small or patulous; secretion of sebaceous and sweat glands copious or scanty; pigmentation excessive or leukoplakia; neck emaciated and withered or strong and fat with double chin and buffalo hump; shoulder girdle bony and weak or over-developed; breasts undeveloped or hypertrophic and pendulous; abdomen sunken or too prominent; buttocks small and dehydrated or too large and fat; legs heavy and unwieldy or emaciated and under-nourished with bones and tendons shining through the atrophic skin; nails short, thin, crippled, ridgy, splitting or long, thick, strong and growing fast; hands and feet large and puffy like those of *Calcareia* or thin and emaciated; cold or hot spots in different regions of skin; heart beats weak and soft or loud and sharp, especially the second aortic and pulmonary; etc. There are very few particulars that have no opposites; they can be found in the *Guiding Symptoms*.

Diminished salt metabolism with its dehydration or overhydration prepares the soil for many a chronic disease. Improve the soil and you will withdraw the very subsistence of disease. There are other contributing causes, of course, but their removal will not yield any therapeutic results as long as the soil remains the same. Remedies given for contributing causes are useless and sooner or later bring disappointment. Permanent results come only from treating the soil. Deficient salt metabolism needs potentized *Natrum mur.* more often than any other remedy. To learn to recognize its symptoms quickly, we must first go back to our original provings which represent an admirable start for its study. However, as these provings were necessarily affected by limitation of time, they describe only functional changes grown in healthy individuals under the influence of the drug for a period of six to twelve months at most. They don't give us any information on the degenerative changes which require decades and generations to develop. These degenerative changes affect the whole system, more or less uniformly and pass from one generation to the other. They are the soil on which local diseases, sometimes malignant, sprout and thrive. If we first become familiar with the provings of our predecessors and use them as a starting point for further clinical studies, we gradually become sufficiently acquainted with the nature of the *Natrum mur.* soil to become able to prescribe afterwards for degenerative diseases even when there is a paralyzing paucity or a confusing superabundance of symptoms.

May I now mention a few degenerative conditions, which have heretofore not been treated with this remedy as far as I know, and whose simillimum is most frequently our *Natrum mur.*:

1. Salt and water retention obesity. These patients are usually light eaters. They are justified in feeling if told that they eat too much. They are harmed, if they follow the advice to eat less. It is easy to recognize this type of obesity. The panniculus adiposus, muscles and all the

organs, as well as blood, contain too much water. The skin is fine in texture, thin and sensitive. Complexion is at times very red, at times pale, but never chalky white as that of *Calcarea*; it may also be dark red and cyanotic, all signs of deficient salt metabolism. Here the highest potencies of *Natrum mur.* are the best. They improve the metabolism and kidney function, the diuresis increases and as soon as a good flow of urine is permanently established, reduction of weight follows. Results, however, must not be expected in weeks but in months.

2. Allergies of many kinds, such as to eggs, starches, milk, honey, ragweed pollens, onions, wheat, animal odors, etc. If *Ferrum* fails to cure an allergy to eggs, don't forget *Natrum mur.* It may cure not only the allergy but the whole case.

3. Sclerotic changes wherever they may occur such as scleroderma, scirrhous, epithelioma, sclerotic degeneration in thyroid and other glands, fibroma, Dupuytren's contracture, arteriosclerosis, thrombo-angiitis obliterans with intermittent claudication, Buerger's and Raynaud's diseases and atherosclerosis, angina pectoris, endocardial and myocardial conditions, etc. A desperate case of atherosclerosis with trophic ulcers at the ends of the fingers and sclerotic changes in the face had her fingers cured with one dose of *Natrum mur.* CM within a month. A filbert-sized fibroma in each breast with watery obesity and neurasthenia in a 48-year-old lady was cured with one dose of the CM and one of the MM of all the symptoms in four months. A mammary scirrhous of 15 years standing in an 80-year-old lady, completely destroying her left breast and both the large and small pectoral muscles, sclerosing the tendons of these two muscles into one contracted string, and covered by a plate consisting of some 60 closely adjacent little boils, red and smooth or crusty, and occupying the whole left side of the breast, is improving beautifully against all expectation. The symptoms of sclerosis, the characteristic soil and the waxy surface of the scirrhous were the only symptoms on

which the prescription could be based. There were no functional nor mental symptoms. The first two months she had all kinds of reactions in her joints, spine and nerves, but almost no reaction in the tumor.

4. Atrophy wherever it may occur. If you see a young individual with a fine thin, translucent skin on his temples and the veins shining through, consider *Natrum mur.* high. If you see a lady with scrawny wrinkled atrophic neck covered with small brown or black warts, don't ask questions, give *Natrum mur.* high; hardly any other remedy will make any impression. Don't expect a cure before a year and repeat very seldom raising the potency each time. Crusts and black spots on the atrophic skin of the scalp, face or legs respond to this remedy. In cryptorchismus and dystrophia adiposo-genitalis you will be surprised how quickly you will cure your patient. The gonads will descend and develop and sterility will be forestalled. In these cases there is also a vascular hypotrophy with smallness of heart which stays with the individual for life unless this remedy is applied. If you can't get enough symptoms in a case, look for atrophic spots on nose, face, ears and orbits and study this remedy. Tuberculosis, and virus colds as we see them in the winter season at present, belong here. The simillimum for the virus "flu" is *Natrum mur.* Very tiny blisters all over the throat, erratic temperatures, hot or cold skin, perspiration or lack of it, chilliness or too much heat, most of the symptoms swinging to far in one or the other direction, much like those in malaria, are the indications.

A man of 66, suffering from an intolerable senile pruritus, was treated by others with lotions and ultra violet lights for two years in vain. One dose of the CM cured him completely in two months in spite of the lotions which he continued using along with the homœopathic remedy against my advice. In the first month there was a reaction in the form of a herpetic eruption but all of it faded away in the second month. Sleepiness on sitting down and dila-

ted veins shining through the atrophic skin of his face were guides in prescribing.

A hopeless case of pemphigus malignus with large pustules attacking nose, mouth, throat, larynx, genitalia, anus and eyes, causing complete blindness, was treated in vain by orthodox authorities for 2½ years. He is improving now on *Natrum mur.* There were almost no symptoms to prescribe upon except the strophy which seemed to have affected every part of his body.

If you give a dose of CM and a violent reaction develops in the form of a runny nose or diarrhea or headache, don't get frightened and don't antidote it. It may be the simillimum. Wait, because now, if ever in your life, you will see the law of Hering in operation to your heart's delight. Some cases react quickly, in others it may take a whole month before the first reaction develops and reactions may then come and go as long as three months. Don't repeat as long as there is general improvement accompanying the different local reactions. If the symptoms start to return, not the particular but the general, such as weakness, irritability and other mental symptoms, then it is time to repeat. To repeat because a month or two have elapsed after the first prescription, and not studying the patient further, does not work. I also find that with every succeeding prescription I must rise the potency. To go higher with every prescription gives better results. To use inter current remedies, we are advised by some writers, may be good and I am not dogmatic enough to oppose it. There are others who say that the remedy should not be repeated. How could then a case three and more generations old be cured? What we should remember is that it is always better to repeat too late than too soon.

*Natrum mur.* acts quickly, as well as a long time, and that is another reason why it works in such deep-seated chronic conditions, if given high enough. I don't start the treatment of chronic cases with CG or IM as they don't go deep enough. Mostly I start with CM. Only in case I am

afraid of the expected reaction or in acute conditions I start with 10M or lower.

According to this, *Natrum mur.* may now look to you like a "jack of all trades." Yet it is not. I only wanted to emphasize that it is much oftener indicated than it appears from our text books and repertories. When these books were written, the degenerative diseases were not so widespread as they are today, hence the need for remedies like this one was less urgent and the search for them less intense than today. *Natrum mur.* fills this need satisfactorily. It is my chronic "sweetheart," the results it gives me are so good. If you think of it study it when treating these chronics, you will discover it to be also most reliable friend.

#### DISCUSSION

DR. HARVEY FARRINGTON [Chicago, Ill.]: Mr. Chairman and Friends: Listening to this paper makes me wish that some one of our officials would appoint me Chairman next year of the Bureau of Materia Medica so I can get the Doctor to write a paper like this on some other remedies.

I have never listened to such a masterly review of mental conditions and general features. We all know this is one of the outstanding examples of how potentiation can give us some valuable and far-reaching remedies. Even though it is used in food, even though it is essential to life, its chemical action and its physiological action are absolutely essential.

The Doctor said that its action in the body did not depend entirely on the osmosis. However, it does principally, and I think that this accounts, to a certain extent, for some of the opposite conditions. I was very glad he brought that out, conditions that are entirely opposite. It shows why *Natrum mur.* is the chronic of *Ignatia*.

This substance, as you know, was so essential to life that even in the early days, in places in the Orient, for instance, where it was scarce, it became even a medium of currency and exchange, and a little bit of salt was very valuable. It became an emblem of hospitality.

There is a direct relationship between the toxic action or the crude action of the substance and the potency. I don't know whether any of you have realized this or not but, to confirm it, I will give you some examples. Salt is the first one. Salt can cause death. The Chinese, in early years, used to commit suicide with it. A despondent lover who wanted to do away with himself mixed up a quart of concentrated solution of salt and drank it. He did penance, I have no doubt, because it must have been a horrible death.

We all know what the effect of the lack of salt is on animals. The cattle in the barnyard, the deer out in the prairie become emaciated. Their hair becomes disheveled, and they will go miles to find a salt lick. The farmer, in early days, used to put a great big chunk of rock salt alongside of his horse or his cow. Neither animal took too much of it, but it helped since he didn't find an awful lot of salt in grass and in hay.

*Arsenicum* (arsenious acid), when applied to the skin, causes horrible burning. In potency it cures ulcers and other manifestations which burn.

*Kali bichromicum* in its escharotic state causes ulcers and it will cure them. Another one you probably don't know, there is a substance, a proprietary drug, called Formadon that has been used hypodermically and more or less successfully for the relief or cure of arthritis.

An old school physician friend of mine was converted to homœopathy on that account, because the originator said the homœopathic preparation was the best to use, showing that his preparation was nothing more than *Formic acid* and he said "Use the 30x."

So my friend used the 30x in many cases, and he even cured cases of deafness, much to his surprise, which evidently were due to arthritis of the ossicles in the ear. He told me that sometimes he used the 200x but he did not always, because the burning was horrible. He had used many different preparations in distilled water and no particular pain or burn would result, but when he used *Formic acid* 30x there was a burning under the skin. When he used the 200x it was very much worse.

This is about all I need to say on this remarkable remedy and this excellent paper. I hope that next year the Doctor gives us another one, not on *Natrum mur.* for he has treated that exhaustively. [Applause]

DR. A. H. GRIMMER [Chicago, Ill.]: I want to commend the Doctor for this excellent paper, especially some of his original observations, and his stressing the peculiarity of the remedy in general, the peculiar phase of presenting a sort of orderly disorder throughout the case. That is characteristic.

Listening to the remedy, with its specific and striking effects on the mentality and emotions, one wonders if the world wouldn't be better off, if everybody in the world wouldn't be benefited by a potency of *Natrum mur.*, because we are in such a state of disorder and confusion and uncertainty. I wouldn't wonder but what a dose of *Natrum mur.* to every one of us wouldn't help us all get into a better state.

All jokes aside, it is meant in all seriousness because the Doctor has shown the possibilities in this remedy. For juvenile delinquents and a lot of other things we see these days, it probably would be a most valuable asset.

Another feature that the Doctor didn't bring out—he couldn't bring out all the particular features of a remedy so wide and so tremendous as this is—but don't forget *Natrum mur.* in the most severe types of headaches.



Many different forms, stemming from many different causes, will find wonderful relief. I remember when I worked in the mines as a young man, I was just studying homœopathy. Anybody who has had blinding headaches will know what a headache is, as no other thing makes worse headaches.

I didn't have any *Natrum mur.* then but I got salt and I ran it up myself to the thirtieth potency. It was remarkable how quickly *Natrum mur.* cured the headache, not only my own but those of my fellow miners.

I have since seen it applied in the worst types of migraine. Headaches that are throbbing and beating and terrifically severe, headaches accompanied with high blood pressure are relieved frequently by *Natrum mur.*

This is a wonderful remedy and the Doctor has given us a most wonderful description of it.

DR. J. W. WAFFENSMITH [New Haven, Conn.]: I also would like to thank the Doctor for this excellent paper. As President of this worthy organization during the last year, it was my privilege to appoint the chairmen of the different Bureaus and I took great pleasure in appointing Dr. Bellokossy as Chairman of the Bureau of Pediatrics, and I requested him to give one of his usual, desirable papers.

I wish to say something in reference to commencing a case with a cm. potency. It is, of course, more or less idealistic because each and every one of us desire to go into the very innermost coverings of the spirit and hit directly to the center and get quick reactive results. But we must remember that we are living in a different world today in these large cities than those who are practicing more or less upon ranchers, sheepmen, farmers, and men who are out in the open, who are doing hard, physical labor. They, it has been my experience, are capable of sustaining these extreme potencies. But when you get into the large centers of population, where people are continuously in a jitter, continuously being battered by the effects of this tremendous war of nerves, it has been my experience to move slowly and take a lower form of potency to begin with.

Naturally, we are trying to maintain the confidence of the newer people that are coming to us, those people not acquainted with the philosophy of homœopathy. They are the people, generally, who want quick results—not saying that we do not get quick results. But if they are allergic, and highly allergic, and get an active reaction, those people, not being grounded in our philosophy, will leave us.

There is another side to that, namely, that if they leave us, we will lose a permanent opportunity of benefiting them, of teaching them homœopathy, because we are the recipients more than ever today, of the chronic type of disease. These people, if we get them started in a mild way, gradually can become indoctrinated with the philosophy of homœopathy. We not only retain them but we have the opportunity of curing them.

This is no criticism whatever but it seems to me that sometimes we fail to think of the more and better form of judgment in the application of our

remedy. Many times I have found, by following this course, that I have retained patients which otherwise I would not have. We have such a wonderful range of potency, from the tincture on to the MM, and who knows how far it can go or how deep? We have never gone into it. Therefore, I merely want to present this not as a form of criticism but just as a matter of policy.

DR. MARCOS JIMENEZ [Dallas, Texas]: I practiced in Mexico many years. There is a great deal of malaria there. Almost every patient has a background of malaria. If you don't treat that background of malaria, generally you go too far in treating your patient.

*Natrum mur.* was, to me, a great help. In acute malaria cases, when the patient had the 10 or 11 a.m. chill or the 10 or 11 p.m. chill, *Natrum mur.* cured malaria in 24 hours or 72 hours.

DR. A.W. HOLCOMBE [Kokomo, Ind]: I was just going to commend the Doctor on this paper. It is the most comprehensive, detailed paper I have ever listened to on any one remedy.

Dr. Grimmer spoke about giving all of us in the world some *Natrum mur.* I have wondered, and am pretty well satisfied in my own mind, if our friends had a homœopathic conception of the mental symptoms of their patients, there wouldn't be half the number of people in our insane hospitals that there are, nor would there be half the number of juvenile delinquents.

The homœopathic doctor who studies his case can obviate and prevent the development of these mental characteristics that lead not only children but men and women astray and make criminals of them.

There is a tendency in *Natrum mur.* for certain types of criminality. I was very much pleased with the emphasis the Doctor gave to the opposites, the opposite conditions. *Natrum mur.* is one of the truer remedies that has its opposite so clearly marked.

DR. BELLOKOSSY (*closing*): I am very glad that you have found that *Natrum mur.* acts as I described it because it confirms that my judgment was not wrong.

I didn't know the Chinese, as Dr. Farrington said, were causing death with large doses of salt, and I am glad to know that.

Dr. Grimmer mentioned headaches. *Natrum mur.* is surely one of the most frequent remedies in headaches, as we see them now. Often there is absolutely no other remedy outside of *Natrum mur.*

I have brought blood pressure down so quickly, so beautifully, that it was a pleasure to watch the patient.

Dr. Waffensmith stressed that people in the cities should not have high potencies; people working hard, physically, can have the higher potency. I always pay attention to that, but if you give a medicine to someone who expects some action, you must produce some reaction, but you must tell

him, "You will have a reaction. It will last so long." If you don't, you lose him.

If you tell him he will have a reaction and that he has to consider it not as an aggravation but as a sign of the medicine's working and as a sign of a cure coming, then he will be glad about it but, surely, if you give to some young girl with chronic sub-febrile temperature a high potency, she will have such a reaction that it will tear her to pieces. Then that would be bad. Then you have to counteract it. You can always counteract it quickly. But it is not necessary to have such a reaction.

We don't have much malaria here, as Dr. Jimenez mentioned. Therefore, we don't have so much experience with malaria cases, but we have enough other cases so we don't need malaria to experiment with *Natrum mur.*

I am very glad Dr. Holcombe is also of the same opinion because he has had immense experience in these cases.

So, I thank you very much for your kind comments.

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## VOMITING IN INFANCY AND CHILDHOOD

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MADAM President, ladies and gentlemen, I feel greatly honoured to address the Faculty of Homœopathy. It was suggested to me that a paper on modern trends in pædiatrics might be acceptable, but the subject seemed too large to cover adequately in a single lecture. The reason I have chosen this title is simply that it links together a number of otherwise unrelated conditions frequently encountered (apart from one or two of them) in hospital pædiatric practice. Differential diagnosis will not be dealt with in a comprehensive way, except in the case of recurrent vomiting in infancy.

### INFANCY

—Shakespeare described infancy as the age of "mewling and puking in the nurse's arms." It is indeed true that vomiting is more common in infancy than in any of the